

Amendment to the Drawing Figures:

FIG. 1 is amended herein to delete reference characters 175, 176, 177, 178, 180, 190, and 194. A Replacement FIG. 1, and an annotated sheet showing the deletions in red, are attached hereto.

LAW OFFICE OF
DALE F. REGELMAN, P.C.
4231 S. Fremont Street
Tucson, Arizona 85714

TEL 520-741-7636
FAX 520-746-9114

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Applicants have amended their claims herein to more clearly define their invention.

Claim 1 is amended hereinto more clearly indicate that the "(N)" recited in line 8, and the (N) recited in line 11, comprise the same number by moving the element "wherein (N) is greater than or equal to 1" from line 11 from line 8, such that claim 1, as amended reads, in pertinent part, "forming (N) host computer groups, wherein (N) is greater than or equal to 1." Support can be found in the Specification on Page 15 at Lines 8-9, and in claims 11 and 21, as filed.

No new matter has been entered. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Swank (US Pub. No. 2003/0172239.

Swank teaches storage area networks and methods to operate those storage area networks. Paragraph [0016] Swank nowhere teaches a method to control access to logical volumes disposed in an information storage and retrieval system, wherein that method forms (N) host computer groups and (N) logical volume groups, wherein (N) is greater than or equal to 1, as recited in Applicants' claims 1, 11, and 21, as amended herein..

In addition, Swank nowhere teaches permitting each of the host computer groups assigned to the (i)th host computer group to access each logical volume comprising the (i)th logical volume group, as recited in Applicants' claims 1, 11, and 21. In fact, Swank teaches away.

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Swank teaches that “associated with each host 12 is a set of attributes defining a policy for file system extension.” Paragraph [0512]. One of the attributes assigned includes “a LUN group defining storage devices onto which the file system can be extended.” Paragraph [0516]. In FIG. 33, Swank shows “a fixed set of policy attributes 244 that are inherited by lower levels in the policy hierarchy 240, unless overridden at those levels.” Paragraph [0525]. Policy attributes 244 include a LUN attribute that reads “LUN Group(any).”

Swank further teaches that “Host group 246 defines a policy for two hosts 250, 254.” Paragraph [0527]. “[H]ost 250 itself has a policy attribute that overrides the default LUN group attribute 244: here specifying that any file system extension will utilize a LUN from the RAID1 group 252. In addition to the selected LUN group 252, the attributes pertaining to the first host 250 includes the threshold value 248 defined by the host group 246, and all other default attributes 244 defined in the SAN domain 242.” Paragraph [0528].

Host 1 and Host 2 are assigned to the same Host Group A. Host 2 is permitted access to LUN Group(any), but Host 1 not permitted access to LUN Group(any). This being the case, Swank teaches away from Applicants’ claims 1, 11, and 21, wherein each host computer assigned to the (i)th host computer group may access each logical volume disposed the associated (i)th logical volume group.

Swank further teaches away from Applicants’ claims 1, 11, and 21. Storage device RAID1 is assigned to two different LUN Groups, namely LUN Group(any) and LUN Group (RAID1). Storage device Shark-2, element 280, is also assigned to two different LUN Groups, namely LUN Group(any) and LUN Group(Shark-2). This being the case, Swank teaches away from Applicants’ claims 1, 11, and 21, wherein each of the logical volumes assigned to the (i)th

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logical volume group is not assigned to any other of the (N) logical volume groups.

“A reference may be said to teach away when a person of ordinary skill, upon reading the reference . . . would be led in a direction divergent from the path that was taken by the applicant.” *In re Gurley*, 27 F.3d 551, 553 (Fed.Cir. 1994). One of ordinary skill of the art following the teachings of Swank would be motivated to create a storage area network wherein each host computer assigned to a host computer group cannot access the same logical volume group. One of ordinary skill of the art following the teachings of Swank would be further motivated to create a storage area network wherein a logical volume can be assigned to more than one logical volume group.

On the other hand, one of ordinary skill of the art following the teachings of Swank would find no motivation to control access to logical volumes disposed in an information storage and retrieval system by forming (N) host computer groups and (N) logical volume groups, wherein each host computer assigned to (i)th host computer group can access each logical volume assigned to the (i)th logical volume group, as recited in Applicants’ claims 1, 11, and 21. One of ordinary skill of the art following the teachings of Swank would further find no motivation to control access to logical volumes disposed in an information storage and retrieval system by allowing a logical volume to only be assigned to a single logical volume group, as recited in Applicants’ claims 1, 11, and 21.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Cal.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed.Cir. 1987); MPEP 2131.

Moreover, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the

LAW OFFICE OF
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4231 S. Fremont Street
Tucson, Arizona 85714

TEL 520-741-7636
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. . . claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed.Cir. 1989). Applicants respectfully submit that Swank does not anticipate claims 1, 11, or 21, because Swank fails to teach a method to control access to logical volumes disposed in an information storage and retrieval system, wherein that method forms (N) host computer groups and (N) logical volume groups, wherein (N) is greater than or equal to 1, and wherein each host computer assigned to the (i)th host computer group may access each logical volume disposed in the (i)th logical volume group, and wherein each of the logical volumes assigned to the (i)th logical volume group is not assigned to any other of the (N) logical volume groups, as recited in Applicants’ claims 1, 11, and 21, as amended herein.

Claims 2 through 10, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, “a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.” For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Swank fails to teach all the elements of Applicants’ claim 1, as amended herein. This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 through 10, as amended herein, are not anticipated by Swank.

Claims 12 through 20, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 11. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, “a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.” For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Swank fails to teach all the elements of Applicants’ claim 11. This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12 through 20 are not anticipated by Swank.

Claims 22 through 26, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 21. Under 35 U.S.C. §

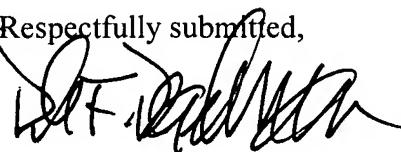
LAW OFFICE OF
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4231 S. Fremont Street
Tucson, Arizona 85714

TEL 520-741-7636
FAX 520-746-9114

112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Swank fails to teach all the elements of Applicants' claim 21. This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22 through 26 are not anticipated by Swank.

Having dealt with all of the outstanding objections and/or rejections of the claims, Applicants submit that the application as amended is in condition for allowance, and an allowance at an early date is respectfully solicited. In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them, or credit an overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 502262.

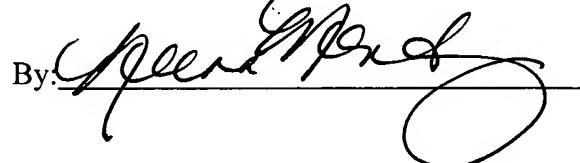
Respectfully submitted,



Dale F. Regelman, Ph.D.
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 45,625

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on March 14, 2006, at Tucson, AZ.

By: 

LAW OFFICE OF
DALE F. REGELMAN, P.C.
4231 S. Fremont Street
Tucson, Arizona 85714

TEL 520-741-7636
FAX 520-746-9114

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

FIG. 1

